

Year 4 Newsletter

January 2016



Welcome



Happy New Year!

We hope that everyone had a good Christmas and has come back to school refreshed and ready to work hard!

Year Four will be continue to be taught by Mrs Clark (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning) and Mrs Squibbs (Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday).

Our Teaching Assistant is Miss Donlan.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.

Maths



In Maths we will be continuing to practise mental skills to develop rapid recall of +, - and x facts and beginning work on related division facts. Please encourage your children to learn and keep practising their multiplication facts up to 12×12 .

We will be continuing to investigate number sequences involving whole numbers and decimals. We will develop our understanding of place value in decimal numbers and begin to use formal written methods to complete multiplication and division calculations. We will also be learning about the relationship between fractions and decimals and how to find fractions of quantities.

Our shape and measures work will involve learning about co-ordinates and symmetry. We will also learn to find the area of rectilinear shapes.

English



In English we will be reading and learning to write balanced arguments about a range of topics, as well as continuing with our weekly writing sessions covering many different genres.

The children will have the opportunity to work in small groups for both reading and writing.

There will also be sessions focussing on spelling and grammar, as well as speaking and listening activities.

Children will continue to take part in guided reading sessions to develop higher order comprehension skills such as inference and deduction.

Spellings will be brought home every other week for the children to learn ready for our class spelling tests. Some of the spellings are quite tricky, but please encourage and help your children to practise them!

Topic



Our topic for this term is called 'Digital Gamers'. This is a discrete ICT and computing topic where the children will learn how to become digitally literate and use their skills to become confident creators, and responsible users of computers in their daily lives.

For the Entry Point of this Topic we will be turning the classroom into a 'Gaming Arcade' for an afternoon when the children will be able to bring and play any of their own hand-held electronic games with others in the class.

The 'Computing' elements of this topic will teach the children how to program their own computer games using a program called SCRATCH. There is an online version of this program that the children can download free and use to practise their skills at home.

Through the topic they will gain understanding of how digital systems work and how to write sequences of instructions to generate specific outcomes. They will also learn how to use technology safely and respectfully, developing strategies for staying safe online and using a range of software and digital devices to collect, analyse, evaluate and present data and information.

Science



For the first part of the term, we will be continuing with the Science topic 'States of Matter'. We will be learning about solids, liquids and gases, and carrying out lots of practical activities to develop our investigational skills.

Later in the term, we will find out about living things and their habitats. We will learn how habitats can change, affecting the organisms living in them. We will also group and classify living things in different ways.

R.E.



In RE this term we will be studying some of the Parables that Jesus told as recorded in the New Testament of the Bible. Through these stories we will be exploring how Jesus uses parables to help Christians understand key beliefs about God and Christian Living.

We will also spend time developing our understanding of the Islamic faith, focusing on some of the names and attributes of Allah, and looking at how the Shahadah, the statement of belief, underpins the whole of life for Muslims.

As we approach Easter we will be looking at how the events of Holy Week are remembered in Church services, and reflect on the importance of the Easter story for Christians.

General News



Our swimming lesson continues for the next three weeks first thing Tuesday morning, so your child will still need his/her kit in school on this day. Please ensure that all school uniform and swimming kit is named so that it can be returned to its owner if lost. If your child is intending to come to school wearing their swimming costume under their clothes, please ensure that they remember to pack underwear for afterwards! After the end of the swimming course, there will be the opportunity for children to buy achievement badges. After half term, our PE day will be Wednesday, so children will need to remember their PE kits.

Homework will continue to be given to children on Wednesday and should be returned to school no later than the following Monday. Please encourage your child to return homework on time, so that the next homework can be prepared. Sometimes homework will be set from the Maths or Grammar 'Workbooks', whilst other weeks it may be research or other preparation for a topic in class. It is just as important that this homework is completed on time too! If your child has not completed his/her homework, please write a note in their planner explaining why and telling us when it will be completed.

All children have a library book which is changed weekly and they are welcome to take this home to read if they wish to.

We are happy for reading books to be taken home but they need to be brought back each day to read during our daily reading sessions. Reading books will be changed as often as possible, when time allows.

This term Year 4 have had the opportunity to take part in the 'Street Dance' and tennis after school sessions which we hope are enjoyed by those who signed up for them.